

Hampton Roads, Nov 22nd 1862

I received your very kind letter to day and I hasten to reply for I know you will be anxious to hear from me. I wrote you a letter before I left Baltimore and one since we have been *hear*. I don't know whether you got the last one or not I did not put any stamp on it for I had none at that time.

We are still lying off Fortress Monroe and don't know but we will have to serve our three years out on this boat, but I have hope not for I am getting tired of a Sailors life. I wouldn't care if we had more room in our quarters. We have to *ly* down or get up on our hands and knees to eat our rations.

We have berths *aranged* one over the other so that it is about three feet between them and there is not room to eat in the *allies* so we have to take in our bunks, it's very convenient.

When I wrote you last, I told you that I was out of money and stamps but I have a plenty now, we were paid off yesterday, there was not quite two months pay *comming*. We were paid up to the first of this month. I received \$16.00 and a check of \$8.00 and as soon as the Captain gets back I will send home the check and money by express. I don't know whether I can send as much as I expected to or not. The Capt. can't pay me but \$15.00 and Harrison owes me \$10.00, I have not got that yet and Uncle Sam \$3.00. I will send all I can any way.

I bought a dollars worth of stamps and a pair of boots which I needed very much, my shoes were getting worn out the second pair I have had I had to pay \$7.00 for them. Perhaps you think that is a big price, but I had rather pay that than go with wet feet they are a good heavy pair. We went on shore to day, we found Woods Rogers and Jim Carrier and two other boys that I was acquainted with. I tell you Woods was glad to see us as well as we were to see him, he looks tough as a bear. Yesterday Norman Babcock and Edwin Coon were ~~yesterday~~ here they are quartered at Norfolk it's about fifteen miles from here they said the 146th Regt. are at Suffolk it's about twenty miles from here. Harrison and myself are agoing to try and get a pass ~~tomorrow~~ tomorrow to go up and see the Doctor.

I suppose you have got plenty of snow up there by this time. I have not seen any snow but once this fall and that was before we left Baltimore, it is warm and pleasant here so that we do not need any thing over us nights. I don't think we will suffer from the cold.

The box you sent we have not seen anything of yet. I think George sent it back. It is getting most one o'clock and I must stop writing. I did not

commence till late the boys are all well and I ~~myself~~ are tough and hearty as ever.

We have plenty of hard crackers to eat. I have a notion to send you one to *knaw* on, it would be all you could eat in a ~~month~~ month. Give my love to all. Write soon.

Yours Affect.

J. F. Brand

Those two pieces of shells are for Alice some that I picked up on the sea shore.

I would like to have you bring these when you come. Give my love to all.